

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 39, and add new claims 51-54. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) An apparatus for handling unmanned aircraft, comprising:
storage means for at least partially enclosing and releasably storing the aircraft;
fuselage support means for supporting a fuselage of the aircraft, the fuselage support means being carried by the storage means;
gripper means for releasably carrying a lifting surface of the aircraft, the gripper means being movable relative to the fuselage support means; and
guide means for guiding motion of the gripper means, the guide means being carried by the storage means to constrain the motion of the gripper means as the gripper means moves between a first position with the lifting surface attached to the fuselage and second position with the lifting surface detached from the fuselage.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the storage means includes a storage apparatus having at least one movable portion, the movable portion carrying the gripper means.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the fuselage support means includes a carriage movably carried by the storage means and positioned to releasably secure at least a portion of the fuselage of the aircraft.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the gripper means is slidably received in the guide means.

39. (Currently amended) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:

a storage apparatus;
an aircraft support carried by the storage apparatus and configured to support at least a portion of an unmanned aircraft; and
a movable device carried by the storage apparatus and configured to carry a lifting surface of an unmanned aircraft, the movable device being movable relative to the aircraft support in a constrained manner along a generally linear guide path.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising a support platform, and wherein the storage apparatus is pivotably carried by the support platform and is pivotable between a first orientation and a second orientation, the storage apparatus being positioned to contact the aircraft when in the second orientation.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the aircraft support includes a fuselage support member carried by the storage apparatus, the fuselage support member being movable from a first position for storage to a second position for launch.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the aircraft support includes a cradle positioned to releasably secure at least a portion of a fuselage of the aircraft.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the movable device translates and rotates relative to the lifting surface of the aircraft to releasably engage the lifting surface, and wherein the movable device is positioned to slidably move along the guide path from a first position with the lifting surface attached to the aircraft to a second position with the lifting surface detached from the aircraft.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the guide path includes a first guide path portion, and wherein the movable device includes a container section movable along the first guide path portion, the movable device further including a gripper, the gripper being positioned to detach the lifting surface of the aircraft by slidably moving relative to the container section along a second guide path portion from

a first position with the lifting surface attached to the aircraft to a second position with the lifting surface detached from the aircraft.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising an elevating member coupled to the aircraft support to move the aircraft support relative to the storage apparatus.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the storage apparatus includes a storage container.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising the unmanned aircraft.

48. (Original) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:
a storage container that includes a first guide structure having a first guide path, the storage container including a movable portion movable along the first guide path, the movable portion including a second guide structure having a second guide path;
a cradle movably carried by the storage container and positioned to support a fuselage of the aircraft; and
a gripper carried by the movable portion of the storage container and positioned to contact and releasably engage a lifting surface of the aircraft, the gripper being movable along the second guide path between a first position and a second position.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the movable portion is slidable along the first guide path and the gripper is slidable along the second guide path and pivotable relative to the second guide path.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48, further comprising an elevating member releasably coupled to the cradle, and wherein the elevating member is configured to move the cradle relative to the storage apparatus.

51. (New) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:
a storage apparatus;
an aircraft support carried by the storage apparatus and configured to support at least a portion of an unmanned aircraft, wherein the aircraft support includes a fuselage support member carried by the storage apparatus, the fuselage support member being movable from a first position for storage to a second position for launch; and
a movable device carried by the storage apparatus and configured to carry a lifting surface of an unmanned aircraft, the movable device being movable relative to the aircraft support in a constrained manner along a guide path.

52. (New) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:
a storage apparatus;
an aircraft support carried by the storage apparatus and configured to support at least a portion of an unmanned aircraft; and
a movable device carried by the storage apparatus and configured to carry a lifting surface of an unmanned aircraft, the movable device being movable relative to the aircraft support in a constrained manner along a guide path, wherein the movable device translates and rotates relative to the lifting surface of the aircraft to releasably engage the lifting surface, and wherein the movable device is positioned to slidably move along the guide path from a first position with the lifting surface attached to the aircraft to a second position with the lifting surface detached from the aircraft.

53. (New) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:
a storage apparatus;
an aircraft support carried by the storage apparatus and configured to support at

least a portion of an unmanned aircraft; and
a movable device carried by the storage apparatus and configured to carry a lifting surface of an unmanned aircraft, the movable device being movable relative to the aircraft support in a constrained manner along a guide path, wherein the guide path includes a first guide path portion, and wherein the movable device includes a container section movable along the first guide path portion, the movable device further including a gripper, the gripper being positioned to detach the lifting surface of the aircraft by slidably moving relative to the container section along a second guide path portion from a first position with the lifting surface attached to the aircraft to a second position with the lifting surface detached from the aircraft.

54. (New) An apparatus for handling an unmanned aircraft, comprising:
a storage apparatus;
an aircraft support carried by the storage apparatus and configured to support at least a portion of an unmanned aircraft; and
a movable device carried by the storage apparatus and configured to carry a lifting surface of an unmanned aircraft, the movable device being movable relative to the aircraft support in a constrained manner along a guide path to carry the lifting surface toward and away from an assembled position.